castorseed and guar are cultivated in a very small area- Overall, it is too early to estimate the foodgrain production at this stage.

Fire safety measures in Trains

*93. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire safety measures in trains are found to be inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the first major fire in train was reported in 1990 and therafter till date no serious efforts have been made to equip trains with fire fighting equipments;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans of Government to protect trains from the incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No Sir. Implementation of various recommendations for prevention of fire accidents on trains and further improvements in fire prevention measures has been a continuous process subject to the feasibility and availability of technology etc. Safety in Passenger coaches from electrical hazards is ensured by intrinsic integration of maintenance of electrical installations with statutory inspections. Since the days of wooden coach many technological modifications and innovations have been made to enhance the fire retardant qualities of passenger coaches.

Some of the measures taken to prevent fire on trains are as under:

(i) Increasing use of fire retardant materials for manufacture of the coaches and their furnishings including replacement of fire prone materials by fire retardant materials such as use of Limpet sheets, meal UIC type vestibules, compreg sheets etc.

(ii) Use of Fire resistant PVC flooring, interior paneling, ceiling, upholstery etc.

(iii) Use of world class specifications such as UIC S64-2 and FAR for development of RDSO specifications.

(iv) Adoption of Code of Practice for Fire Prevention Measures by Research, Design and Standards Organization (RDSO).

(v) Use of superior insulating material on the roof below pantograph in local suburban trains of Mumbai area.

(vi) Provision of smoke detection and fire extinguishing system in all the newly built EMU coaches for suburban trains.

(vii) Provision of fire extinguishers in locomotives, air-conditioned coaches, pantry cars and passenger brake vans.

(viii) Development of prototype fire-propf coach at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

(ix) Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carriage of inflammable goods, stoves, crakers and gas cylinders etc.

(x) Periodical Safety drives for surpise checks on luggage and parcels, strengthening of security arrangements at stations and on trains, availability of adequate fire extinguishers, etc.

(xi) Fire alarm system is under development.

(xii) Emergency exit windows are being provided in all coaches.

(xiii) Imposition of ban on smoking in passenger carrying trains.

Universities in the country

†*94. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities in the country and the details thereof;

(b) whether UGC propose to interconnect all universities of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the benefit which the students are likely to get from this measures?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.